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STARK RESPONDS TO BUSH'S MEDICARE RHETORIC

WASHINGTON, DC -- U.S. Representative Pete Stark (D-CA, 13) released the following statement today regarding the President's attempts to raise support for his Medicare reform bill.

"The Medicare drug bill the Administration will begin implementing next year is inadequate and overly complex. Unfortunately, the President's rhetoric today will only confuse seniors and people with disabilities further.

"The President's materials fail to mention the gap in drug coverage for seniors, often called the donut hole. There is no mention that while plans can periodically change the drugs they cover, seniors are locked-into a plan for a full year. No mention of companies ending coverage for retirees. And there is no mention that HMOs are receiving huge taxpayer-funded subsidies. If his goal is truly education, the President owes it to senior citizens and people with disabilities to be upfront about the gaps in coverage and the limitations of the program.

"While Republicans in Congress may fall for Bush's misleading statements, it is clear the American people are not so gullible. As with Social Security, the more they hear about the President's plan for a privatized Medicare, the less they like it."

Stark's office released a commentary of White House talking points on the new Medicare program. [Click here](#) to read the commentary in PDF format.